# BUILDING WORLDWIDE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CAPACITY

**WASHINGTON, MAY 8** --In the developing world, significant shortages of information technology (IT) professionals cripple the ability of countries to tap into the global IT infrastructure that will power commerce and culture for the foreseeable future.

An estimated 2 million computer network installers and managers are needed worldwide, particularly in developing nations. Developing the human capital, fostering the proper regulatory framework and laying a durable IT infrastructure are key steps these countries can take to enable future economic growth and achieve self-sufficiency.

The Cisco Networking Academy Alliance is a multimillion dollar global initiative that is cultivating a robust IT work force in developing countries. By teaching students the necessary computer networking skills and preparing them for internationally recognized network credentials, the alliance enables students to compete effectively in the global marketplace. The alliance also provides scholarships for girls and women to attend its networking academies, and offers job-searching guidelines to academy graduates.

Through its Networking Academy Program pioneered in the United States, Cisco is now a member of the Global Development Alliance, partnering with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and other donors working to bridge the digital divide among nations.

The alliance has established 239 academies in 60 developing countries, training 10,000 students and 700 instructors.

"The Internet has the power to positively change the way people learn, work, play, and relate to one another. The Cisco Networking Academy Alliance with USAID is at the forefront to bring this transformation to the developing world," said Tae Yoo, Cisco Systems vice president of corporate affairs.

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